

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were pending in the application. Claim 3-5, 8-10, 14-16, 19-21, 28-30 and 33-35 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 17, 18, 31 and 32 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-13, 17, 18, 22-27, 31, 32, and 36 remain pending in the application.

Objection to the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to. Specifically, Figure 1 was objected to for being too dark. Attached herewith are formal drawings submitted for approval. Applicant submits that Figure 1 of the attached formal drawings meets all formal requirements, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections:

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant notes that these claims have been cancelled and thus the § 112 rejection is believed moot.

35 U.S.C § 102 Rejections, § 103 Rejections, and Allowable Subject Matter:

The claims were subject to various 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections, as well as various 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections. The Examiner also objected to claims 5-6, 16-17, and 30-31 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, along with the limitations of intervening claims 3 and 4. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16, including intervening claims 14 and 15. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 30, including intervening claims 28 and 29. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 23 are in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

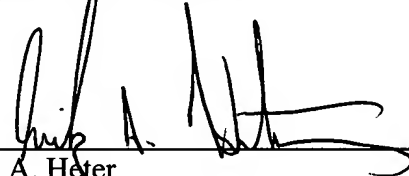
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-73100/BNK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Erik A. Heter
Reg. No. 50,652
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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Date: 9/13/04

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A set of formal drawings is submitted herewith. The objection to Figure 1 has been addressed, and thus Applicant submits that the drawings are in compliance with formal requirements.